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LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 22 August 1992 regarding the need to take decisive measures to ensure the security of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

We are seriously concerned by the reports of losses among the troops of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia. According to the latest information, the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo is in a disturbing situation. Two of its members have already been killed and eight wounded, and equipment has been destroyed and damaged. There are losses among the troops from other countries.

Respect for the neutral status of the United Nations "blue helmets" is vital to the effective conduct of peace-keeping operations. Those who violate this principle are issuing a challenge to the United Nations and to the civilized standards accepted in universal practice.

In the situation that is emerging, the Security Council must take the most decisive measures to ensure the security of the personnel of the peace-keeping forces. Russia is prepared to support vigorous and, if necessary, severe measures against those responsible for endangering the life and security of members of the United Nations military contingents in Yugoslavia.